The Purple Fire of Divine Love

A love of eternity anointed with the sweet oil of heaven.

Based on Richard Rolle's "Fire of Love" (circa 1343)

By Darcy John Bouchard © 2003

Exchange the glory of incorruptible charity for a fleeting moment,
abandoning the withering of beauty and physical lust for the hatred of wickedness…
magnificence of worldly splendor…
devastating virtue and encouraging vice and riotous living.

Wander not away from faith to have heart broken with many sorrows:
everlasting bother with the transitory without acquiring devotion;
neither opposing the wicked world of flesh with reluctance,
nor y^{e} attending to mundane matters but only as need—not lust—may require.
Loaf not nor gad after the spectacular and the frivolous… sincerely care… and do so thoughtfully.

The reprobate, altogether too casual, are inattentive in prayers offered without love
and meditations without prayer…
do yine alms of mortal sin with means unjustly gotten which are not pleasing to Our Redeemer,
but rather provoking Judgment to vengeance.
Serve ye not worldly carnality nor adulterating greed that your "good deed doing" be given more over to things temporal rather than eternal.
Be y^{e} merciful, chaste, and humble…
for only self-confessed penitence in denial of sin obscures mortal wounds by the odor of sanctity,
which compels the heart to glow with charity, eager for love and indifference to vanity… for:

In love, no one attains the heights of devotion at once.

In love, occasionally, momentarily, we are allowed to experience the gradual progress of spiritual strength
to heavenly heights of devotion—at once
ravished with contemplative sweetness—the gravity of behaviour so necessary to achieving certain stability of mind.

O, perfection… only
acquired after great labour of feeling joy in loving.
Only then do things temporal melt in the immense fire of Divine Love,
singing in heart the jubilant song of Divine Praise…
echoing harmoniously throughout your mind as the genuine fire of heavenly praises.
Thus, reborn of virtue, immediately and genuinely experiencing all the sublime mystery of charity…
and melting as your soul's voice gives birth to quietus,
rejoicing in song: "I will go to the house of the Lord, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving." [1]

O join y^{e} those perfect souls—those angelic hearts surpassing in eternal abundance
and discover within your mind a life of love
suffused with imperishable sweetness poured out from the glittering chalice of charity:
a cornucopias heart of holy, happy wisdom— inhale you

the joyful heat of love into your parched soul athirst for life…
drowning with every breathe… devouring and being devoured by an indescribable comfort in earthly exile.

Distress befell our Beloved Groom, crowned with Glory,
inflamed with Love and companioned by Seraphim in highest heaven, rejoicing with prayers of love everlasting.

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Supernal Angels are not sent out on errands, but kept close to the heart.
Charity and spiritual virtue in our hearts keep the soul from corruption of sin…
by Grace inspiring contemplation of the fire of eternal love!
Due mead of affection and Glory rejoicing forever and steadfast, serving righteousness:
adrift from contempt and insults and obloquy and worldly prosperity and vanity… contagions… attractive poisons.
Consolation in songs of love and sweetness of devotion.
Accepting ardently with equanimity:
fiery love feeds into our minds, blazing, divine glory…

High on 'manifest desire'!

Our hearts aflame, glow, burn, purged of sin's foulness;
impervious to suffering … consistently practicing righteousness.

Worldly vanity, and pleasures … greater folly,
pitiful and damning … nature passing and decaying with no qualms about serving sin.
Reckoned creatures caring nothing for desire and pursuit of things eternal:
a dreadful moment of everlasting perdition
surrendered wholly to the world. Wretched
destruction begins … Deliberately given to wallowing in the lust of flesh
and of the appalling darkness of perverse error. No mitigation
of grief, nor alleviation of the pain of carnal lust and damnation.
By their own free will, wantonly
a love of sensual pleasure deceived.

Clear conscience, unwavering, unaffected by depression and vainglory:
our prime concern must be love, not to acquire knowledge or engage in dialogue.

Love delights the soul and sweetens the conscience

Knowledge without love does not edify [2]
or contribute to eternal salvation.

Consolation … transient does not endure … refuse to yield to base pleasure.
Great the lament of those who have never loved
the Founder of the universe …cast into unending darkness,
the everlasting heat of hell-fire is reserved for those who do not love their Redeemer.
No splendor or coronation glory for those who not praise the love of their Maker.
Rather than endure penance and hardship, and purge their sins,

In a vale of tears they languish … in torments unbroken.[3]

Made beautiful through virtue, blossomed … happy,
spiritual fervor of sweet love ravishing.
Praising life of spirit sincerely … seeking inextinguishable heat in the glorious choir
and rich melody … (A shade of heaven protects against scorching lusts and melancholy.)

Irksome, sick world … a shadow of doubt and torment vanishes … No grief
among Seraphim, completely absorbed in indescribable, supreme love.
It behooves … absorbed into splendid praise … saturated … blessedness … indissoluble
claim of love. Undisciplined and chaotic
minds given way to curiosity, opposing love in their hearts by insensate greed:
resistant to truth … heretical and proud to ventilate pleasure in decrying;
rejecting belief and understanding either by reason or intellect,
of the unknowable incommunicable and incomprehensible incredible glory.
We know in part and we understand in part. [4]
Through charity, repudiate all vainglory …
acquire and retain love … In the time of temptation receive the crown of life … for
Love Makes Whole.

Blessed art the poor … [5]
afflicted by much: hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness,
and other trials. Purged of squalor and despise and enduring patience in tribulation.
Consciously and deliberately enduring persecution, wretchedness,
and misery … a vale of tribulation, sickness, and grief …
surrounded by enervating luxury;
and holy in supreme righteousness only through grace
spurning allurement completely - however pleasant flesh's seduction and delight
of life's carnal, illicit pleasure … appalling filth eschewed by the chaste.

Nothing is dearer to god than innocence,
More pleasing than good will. [6]

He has spread a cloud (of divine grace) for a cover (from carnal lust)
and fire (of everlasting love) to give light (within the mind) in the night (of this life).[7]

Temporal honor can be destroyed by shame.
Earthly glory finished by confusion. Insult, confusion, grief,
habitually faced with patience … learn humility and be crowned in splendor
'patience of poor' will not ultimately perish.

Genuinely humble through all life … righteous … fearing
no tribulation, grief, misery, perplexity, or rejection:
advancing in contemplation and love
in patient humility and love we cleave to precepts and counsels of Christ:
passing through pleasant and unpleasant, hardship and poverty,
never murmuring, or speaking, foolishly or perversely. In everything we give thanks.[8]

While I live I shall praise the Lord my God with delight and devotion.[9]
Suffer or prosper …face insult or honour … undergo persecution never forgetting love.

Neither frivolous nor reprehensible or presumptuous
reputation for the odour of sanctity of life
laudable: love is strong as death, jealousy as cruel as hell.[10]

Deceit is the wisdom of 'the world.'

Peace known … heart fixed … longing in thought of love:
delectable … rapt in sublime and gay melody … vigilant, pining for ardent love blithely.[11]

Renunciation of world … solitary, irreproachable … supernal … transcendent….

The tempted fall having not grace to resist … I will love you, Lord, my strength.[12]

The power of His merit … glory chastised … delights of this world are few and fleeting.

His teaching endows strength.

Kept off carnal pleasures and endured
hard penance, undue hardship … Eternal delight and full reward:
the vision of God and His Holy Saints.

Embrace a life that has no human comfort to attain
glory in divine consolation … recipient of frequent spiritual visitations.[13]

In order to serve God with greater freedom and devotion.
Relinquishing, spurning and rejecting the transitory
and in the sublimity of the mind … risen above temporal
devotion and contemplation never wavering.
live life loving and despise the worldly … continually devote – hate idleness:
withstand pleasures of the flesh and worldly corruption… ardently seek heavenly things
and delight in sweetness of prayer,
and genuinely experience … chaste … unsullied … celestial
music resounds sweet, flowing melody

Consoled by delight of love to vigorously exult God …ecstasy
through consolation, an inner blaze of indescribable and unwavering charity,
freedom of grace … rejection of carnal affection … everlasting bliss
infused with the calm quietness of heart … clear conscience
though suffering hardship and adversity, (in spirit maintaining constant harmony and fervor).

See how I burn … consumed with indescribable love;
Flame gladdens and glistens with heavenly light.

Purged of vice and avoid - all ostentation … courage not to dread …fervor:
mind, enthralled to ardent, overflowing of praise, truly ablaze with fire of eternal love;
heart similarly ablaze with marvelous delight … exquisite,
perfecting … continual retention of love, ardently, without cessation.
The joyful psalmody … delectable,
unceasing praise in tribulation and persecution
and in prosperity … confidence,
vehemence

and virtue, beautiful, true, lovely and faultless
flourishing - body's grievous yoke depresses soul,
flesh falters under burden of life,
in consequence spirit falters too …

In true loving minds is, always, a song
of glory and inner flame of love surging up,
out of clear conscience and abundant spiritual joy, inward gladness; love's virtue
abounds … immense in its fervor and unrestrained. Radiant. Irresistible.

Real penitence involves giving up everything that panders to vanity.[14]

I languish for love.[15]

Love is the transforming of the desire into the …assimilating to Beloved.

The splendors of the spiritual preferred to pleasures of the visible.

Sweet love and a devout heart … diffusive, unifying, and transforming, transforms
the *lover* into His Beloved. *C*harity is the queen of virtues … beauty of the soul
it wounds, intoxicates and melts, beautifies, gladdens, enkindles …
Orderly and practical, love alone makes us blessed … sully not
love by thought, word, or deed.

Renunciation to attain perfection, sincerely
enduring serious hardship … exercising great diligence
through penance the flesh sheds degenerate delights
and decadent thoughts … no recourse to intolerable sensual lusts:
fleshy beauty is corruptible, weak, and contemptible … passing. Deceiving
truth scorns and tramples down vanity - worldly lust
beguiles … the shining soul intent, wont
to be filled with abundant sweetness, earthly vanity and fleshy
lust is accounted the filthiest refuse which … in a vale of tears … leads to death.

Perfection of love tempted to lust. [16]

Abstain from anything that will destroy or hinder perfect love
through free will and grace
of God … contempt of transient and perverse corruption of flesh.

Stability of mind … through continual prayer … acquires grace
and glory … a soul kindled with fire of love. Contemplative
life, sweeter, nobler, worthier, meritorious in respect and delight
of uncreated good (demanding … 'savor the sweetness of eternal love').

A man is not more holy because of the outward deeds he performs, but
the more ardent a man's love in abundance, infused, of joy and song … purer
and more precious, in fervor of love and contemplation, aglow, mind
set on heavenly things – giving alms, defending truth (even unto death) … great
penance's performing for God's sake, putting up with wretchedness
in this life: yielding wholly to God, surrendered completely to love persevering.

The fire of love cleans out all trivial and unnecessary vice, creates beauty
in virtue … divine love, so ardent, burns up Venial Sin.
and mortal sins … burnt up in the fire of divine love,
rejecting care of worldly affairs, spurning all transitory things,
refraining from wanton and improper desires - mind exalted and rapt
with delights … overcoming burden of flesh. Lasciviousness
abounding in license and wealth … perverse, carnal, voluptuous lust;
seductions of flesh inflames mind, kindles fire of sensuality, and temptation
of carnal pleasures, increased riches … beguiled
by charm and flattery, deplorably defected from faithfulness.

Avarice is spiritual adultery. The covetous through passion
for money … prostitution, inordinate greed … fornication,
idolatry … baneful pleasures, vilify.

The delight of angels … the reward of blessedness…

Purity of heart cleaves to Christ … in asperity, as if unto breasts sweeter than wine. [17]

Love that is perfect conquers pain and overcomes … rejects pride in humility

Righteous is humble love in truth. and High Perfection [18]
in thought and deed … great humility and contempt
of world, and hatred of sin. Desire for sweet and fervent love.
Abound in virtue. Glitter with miracles and exalt shining charity
with Contemplation's heavenly gift. Deliberately
away from earthly hindrances … the transient … fades.

Wrath of GOD and justice is vindicated … ghastly fires of the deep, narrow
'Valley of Gehin'na-om Topeth' …

Enthralled by pleasure of heavenly desire, supernal delight,
stranger to venal and carnal sweetness, pleasures
of the flesh-world …

Spiritual gifts oblige the devout soul to love and subdue flesh through penance.

Embrace tribulation … empty glory … human solace … consolation
of earthly comfort seems desolate … delights of lascivious and carnal wickedness cover up
the loathsome, abominable terror of coming damnation.
Despicable worm …
despise thy own virtue and seek HIS glory lest you succumb to vanity and lose
everlasting reward … flesh is aggravating and will be subdued!

Fundamental essence liberated from idleness and uncleanness!

Not demerit nor denigration…
The reward of ardent, devoted, praise and promotion to splendor … humility best disposes.

Persevere in loving God.

Reject pride and profoundly love humility.
Abominate vainglory's only desire for eternal pleasure;
loath the softness of carnal pleasure,
taste the sweetness and burn … endure
without bitterness or resentment … envious,
radiant and rejoicing progress and salvation …

Hereafter, "The Purple Fire of Divine Love" remains

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[1] Psalms 42:4.
[2] I Corinthians 8:1.
[3] "Heaping pain upon heaping pain."
[4] I Corinthians 13:12. Cf. Ps. 36:10.
[5] Luke 6:20.
[6] Psalms 90:15.
[7] Psalms 105:39.
[8] I Thessalonians 5:18.
[9] Psalms 104:33.
[10] Canticle of Canticles 8:6. (Compare Exodus.34:14.)
[11] Canticle of Canticles 5:8.
[12] Ps. 18:1.
[13] Hosea 2:14, I will lead her into solitude, & I will speak to her heart.
[14] Ecclesiastes 1:2.
[15] Isaiah 5:1; Psalms 71:6. Compare. Canticle of Canticles 5:8, 8:6.
[16] Galatians 5:17, The flesh lusts against the spirit & the spirit against the flesh.
[17] Canticle of Canticles 1:2.
[18] Canticle of Canticles 1:3, The righteous love You.